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Agenda item 3
Basic programme of work of the Council

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a depositary notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 26 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-21765 (E) 310111

Please recycle

Annex

Note verbale dated 26 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to submit the following the comments of the Government of Canada with reference to (a) the Secretary-General's note C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2 (Depositary Notification), dated 6 April 2009, which communicated a proposal by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1972 (the Single Convention), and (b) the Secretary-General's note C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3 (Depositary Notification) dated 30 July 2009, which informed the parties to the Single Convention of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to initiate the procedures established in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention with regard to the proposal.

In considering the proposed amendment, it is the view of the Government of Canada that Member States must remain guided by the principles and objectives of the Single Convention. As such, and in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, the Government of Canada, consistent with its general obligations outlined in article 4 of the Convention, does not accept the proposed amendment to the Convention.

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Basic programme of work of the Council

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a depositary notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 24 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-21838 (E) 310111

Please recycle

Annex

Note verbale dated 24 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and has the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, note No. 41/47-245 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia regarding the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Note verbale dated 24 January 2011 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia presents its compliments to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and, referring to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/2009/78 regarding the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975), has the honour to convey the following.

According to article 4, paragraph (c), of the Single Convention, the purpose of the Single Convention is to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. The proposal of Bolivia contained in its letter dated 12 March 2009 (E/2009/78, enclosure) to the Secretary-General and its after-effects go beyond this purpose, having broad consequences for all the States parties to the Single Convention and production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs derived from coca leaves. As indicated by Bolivia in its letter mentioned above, the purpose to allow coca leaf chewing for Andean indigenous people of Bolivia is a need to maintain a habit and sociocultural practice, not a medical or scientific purpose.

Now therefore, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia informs the Economic and Social Council that the Republic of Latvia rejects the proposed amendment to the Single Convention submitted by Bolivia.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] CN.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-21901 (E) 310111

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Annex

Note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to the Secretary-General's note CN.194.2009.TREATIES-2, dated 6 April 2009, has the honour to communicate the following:

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, aims to limit the production of and trade in illegal substances by listing such substances that are qualified as narcotic drugs. Bolivia transmitted a note verbale dated 12 March 2009 to the Secretary-General with a view to amending article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Convention. Article 49, paragraph 1 (c), states that a party may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, reserve the right to permit coca leaf chewing temporarily, provided that this chewing be abolished within 25 years from the coming into force of the Convention (article 49, paragraph 2 (e)). Bolivia proposed that these provisions be deleted.

The Secretary-General communicated the amendment proposed by Bolivia to the United Nations Economic and Social Council in the Depositary Notification dated 6 April 2009.

Pursuant to article 47, paragraph 1 (b), the Council decided to ask the parties to the Convention whether they accepted the amendment proposed by Bolivia and also asked them to submit comments on the proposal. This decision was communicated to the parties in a Depositary Notification dated 30 July 2009. If the proposed amendment is rejected by any party before 31 January 2011, the Council may decide, in the light of comments received from the parties, whether a conference shall be called to consider the said amendment.

In accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention, the Mission informs the United Nations that Germany does not accept the proposed amendment introduced by Bolivia.

This decision is based first and foremost on fundamental drug policy considerations. It also takes into account the fact that Bolivia has announced further steps towards legalizing coca leaf chewing.

At the same time, we recognize that the proposal touches upon complex development and health policy issues, in addition to intricate drugs issues. Germany knows that the question is of particular importance to Bolivia and that coca leaf chewing is viewed there as part of the cultural identity of the indigenous population, the majority of all Bolivians. We therefore consider it necessary to discuss the effects of coca leaf chewing in greater detail, in dialogue with Bolivia. Germany will give favourable consideration to the question of convening a conference of States to discuss the issue.

We know that Bolivia still considers combating the illegal trade in drugs to be a priority and continue to view Bolivia as a partner in all counter-narcotics issues. We are also aware that Bolivia continues to rely on and seek the support of the international community to step up its fight against the cultivation, trade and

smuggling of illegal drugs. In our view, such international cooperation will remain necessary in the future and we are investigating further options to help increase the efficiency and capabilities available for Bolivian counter-narcotics efforts and to support a development-oriented drug policy. In that context, we welcome and support the reopening of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Bolivia.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 26 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22017 (E) 010211

Please recycle

Annex

Note verbale dated 26 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, with reference to the Secretary-General's depositary notifications dated 6 April 2009 (C.N.194.2009. TREATIES-2) and 30 July 2009 (C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3), has the honour to draw attention to the procedures established in article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, which was initiated by Economic and Social Council decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations has the honour to inform the Secretariat that the Government of Japan does not accept the proposed amendments referred to in the above-mentioned notifications.

Parties to the Convention undertake the obligation to limit exclusively to medical and scientific purposes the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs. Parties also recognize that effective measures against the abuse of narcotic drugs require coordinated and universal action. As a party to the Convention, the Government of Japan adheres to the principles and objectives of the Convention. For these reasons, the Government of Japan has taken the above-mentioned decision.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22038 (E) 020211

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Annex

Note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to the proposal by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, communicated in Depositary Notification C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2 of 6 April 2009 to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.

The Government of Estonia is of the opinion that the Bolivian proposal would create a political precedent and send a negative signal to the universal actions undertaken in order to fight drug use and drug trafficking. We believe that it is important to have a dialogue with the Bolivian Government over their concern but it needs to be dealt with outside the framework of the 1961 Convention.

In the light of these considerations, the Government of Estonia hereby informs the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, that it does not accept the proposal of amendments submitted by Bolivia.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22052 (E) 020211 020211

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Annex

Note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to note CN.194.2009.TREATIES-2 (Depositary Notification), dated 6 April 2009, by which the Secretary-General communicated the proposal of the Government of Bolivia to repeal article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. It further wishes to refer to note CN.474.2009.TREATIES-3 (Depositary Notification), dated 30 July 2009, by which the Secretary-General informed the parties of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council to initiate the procedures established in article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention.

The proposed amendment concerns the "ancestral custom" of coca leaf chewing, a practice that Bolivia asserts is among the rights of indigenous peoples established, in particular, by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which France is deeply committed.

Inasmuch as coca leaf chewing is not only an ancient custom of the Bolivian people but also of the Andean peoples, France is aware that the issue is of particular importance to Bolivia, a country where coca leaf chewing is considered a component of cultural identity.

France is therefore open to dialogue aimed at arriving at a solution that would better accommodate the tradition of coca leaf chewing while maintaining the integrity of the Single Convention of 1961.

Since the proposed amendment concerns a controlled narcotic substance (which is listed in Schedule I of the Single Convention), it has the potential to weaken the framework and general obligations set out in article 4, to which all States parties to the Single Convention are committed, in order to combat the trade in and use of narcotics. It is also desirable to avoid setting a precedent that would undermine the international legal framework for combating narcotic drugs.

Therefore, in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations would like to inform the Organization that, in view of the obligations imposed on the States parties to the Convention, the Government of France does not accept the amendment proposed by Bolivia.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22070 (E) 020211

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Annex

Note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer (a) to the Secretary-General's Depositary Notification dated 6 April 2009 (C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2), which communicated a proposal of amendments by Bolivia to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 ("The Single Convention"); and (b) to the Secretary-General's Depositary Notification dated 30 July 2009 (C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3), which informed the parties to the Single Convention of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to initiate the proceedings established under article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention with regard to the proposal.

Through ratification of the Single Convention, States parties undertake an obligation to limit the trade and use of narcotic drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. States parties to the Single Convention also recognize that measures against the abuse of narcotic drugs require coordinated and universal action. Schedule I to the Single Convention lists coca leaf as a narcotic drug. Furthermore, in considering the proposal of amendments, States parties should remain guided by the object and the purpose of the Single Convention.

In the light of the above considerations, and in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria hereby informs the Secretary-General that it does not accept the proposed amendments submitted by Bolivia.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22064 (E) 020211

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Annex

Note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's Depositary Notification dated 6 April 2009 (C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2), which communicated a proposal by Bolivia to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (the Single Convention); and to the Secretary-General's Depositary Notification dated 30 July 2009 (C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3), which informed the parties to the Single Convention of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to initiate the procedure established under article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention with regard to the proposal.

Italy is fully aware of the importance of the efforts of Bolivia to reduce the production of and trade in illicit coca products. Italy is also fully aware of the cultural implications of the Bolivian amendment and, to this end, underlines the importance of respecting the cultural identity and traditions of indigenous populations, guaranteed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, Italy believes that the dialogue aimed at further promoting respect for indigenous traditions should be fully coherent with and preserve the integrity of the Single Convention.

States parties to the Single Convention undertake an obligation to limit the trade in and use of narcotic drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. States parties also recognize that measures against the abuse of narcotic drugs require coordinated and universal action. Schedule I to the Single Convention lists coca leaf as a narcotic drug.

Italy is therefore of the opinion that, in proposing amendments, States parties should be guided by the object and purpose of the Single Convention. The Bolivian proposal poses the risk of creating a political precedent and might directly impact the international anti-narcotics legal framework. This would send a negative signal, out of step with the actions undertaken so far in the fight against drug trafficking and drug use.

In the light of these considerations, the Government of Italy hereby informs the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, that it does not accept the amendment proposed by Bolivia.

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Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 29 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22108 (E) 010211 010211

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Annex

Note verbale dated 29 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Economic and Social Council

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Economic and Social Council and has the honour to transmit the original of the note of 26 January 2011 (see enclosure), signed by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia and chargé d'affaires of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mónica Lanzetta Mutis, addressed to the President of the Council, Hamidon Ali, with reference to the proposal submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia concerning the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.

Enclosure

Letter dated 26 January 2011 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia addressed to the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to address you in your capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council in order to refer to the proposed amendment to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 submitted by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

On this matter, and with reference to the note dated 1 December 2010, in which the Government of Colombia expressed its views on the above-mentioned proposal to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, I should like to inform you that, for purposes of further consideration and evaluation, my Government has decided to withdraw the above-mentioned note.

(*Signed*) Mónica **Lanzetta Mutis**
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Chargé d'affaires of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 31 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

11-22121 (E) 020211 030211

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Annex

Note verbale dated 31 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Council

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General in his capacity as depositary of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and has the honour to refer to his note C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3 dated 30 July 2009, which informed the States parties to the Single Convention that the Economic and Social Council had decided to initiate a consultation process on the proposal to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the said Convention.

The Government of Mexico respects and supports the preservation and protection of indigenous peoples' traditional customs and practices. In keeping with its Constitution, it promotes a comprehensive policy of recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples, at both the domestic and the international level. At the same time, the Government of Mexico considers that the respect and protection owed to the customs and practices of indigenous peoples must be compatible with the need to ensure that the cultivation of coca leaf does not lead to its illicit use, and deems it vital to consider alternative approaches to the eradication of cocaine production.

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 is an instrument of universal scope, one of whose objectives is the protection of human health. Mexico is convinced that only by maintaining the integrity of the Convention will its objectives be met.

In this regard, I wish to inform you, for the purposes envisaged in the said Convention, that the Government of Mexico, having considered the aforementioned proposed amendments, deems it inadvisable to initiate a process to amend the Single Convention of 1961.

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Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 31 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Note verbale dated 31 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Secretary-General's note C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2, dated 6 April 2009, which communicated a proposal by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (hereinafter the Single Convention of 1961), has the honour to convey the following:

Through ratification of the Single Convention of 1961, States parties undertook an obligation to limit the trade and use of narcotic drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes.

They also agreed that effective measures against the abuse of narcotic drugs require coordinated and universal action. Cocaine and coca leaf are listed as narcotic drugs in Schedule I, which is an annex to the Single Convention of 1961.

The Russian Federation has consistently supported maintaining and strictly complying with the current international legal narcotics control regime. In accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention of 1961, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations hereby informs the Secretary-General that the Government of the Russian Federation does not accept the proposal by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend the Single Convention of 1961.

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Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to the Secretary-General's Depositary Notification dated 6 April 2009 (C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2), which communicated a proposal of amendments by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 ("the Single Convention"), and also to the Secretary-General's Depositary Notification dated 30 July 2009 (C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3), which informed the parties to the Single Convention of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to initiate the procedures established under article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention with regard to the proposal.

States parties to the Single Convention undertake an obligation to limit the trade and use of narcotic drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. States parties also recognize that measures against abuse of narcotic drugs require coordinated and universal action. Schedule I to the Single Convention lists coca leaf as a narcotic drug. In considering the proposal of amendments, States parties should be guided by the object and purpose of the Single Convention.

Therefore, also taking into consideration the expert opinion presented on behalf of Slovakia, recommending a reserved attitude to the acceptance of the proposed amendment, especially in the context of the adverse health consequences that might follow, the Government of Slovakia hereby informs the Secretary-General in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention, consistent with its general obligations outlined in article 4 of the Single Convention, that it does not accept the proposed amendment.